

Appl. No. 09/734,262

Response to Office Action of April 16, 2004

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the patent application.

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
storage control means for controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted thereto;  
detection means for detecting presence or absence of a boundary line in the proximity of the pixels whose storage has been controlled by said storage control means;  
position calculation means for calculating positions of the boundary line with respect to the pixels whose storage has been controlled by said storage control means;  
weighting means for weighting the pixel values of the pixels and juxtaposed pixels in accordance with the positions calculated by said position calculation means; and  
outputting means for blending at least two pixel values of the pixels and juxtaposed pixels of said weighting means and outputting the pixels weighted by said weighting means.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): An image processing method, comprising:  
a storage control step of controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted;  
a detection step of detecting presence or absence of a boundary line in the proximity of the pixels whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step;  
a position calculation step of calculating positions of the boundary line with respect to the pixels whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step;  
a weighting step of weighting the pixel values of the pixels and juxtaposed pixels in accordance with the positions calculated by the position calculation step; and  
blending at least two pixel values of the pixels and juxtaposed pixels of the weighting step; and  
an outputting step of outputting the pixels ~~weighted by the processing of the weighting~~ step.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A recording medium on which a computer-readable program is recorded, the computer-readable program comprising:  
a storage control step of controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted;  
a detection step of detecting presence or absence of a boundary line in the proximity of the pixels whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step;  
a position calculation step of calculating positions of the boundary line with respect to the pixels whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step;  
a weighting step of weighting the pixel values of the pixels and juxtaposed pixels in accordance with the positions calculated by the position calculation step; and  
blending at least two pixel values of the pixels and juxtaposed pixels of the weighting step; and  
an outputting step of outputting the pixels ~~weighted by the processing of the weighting~~ step.

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Claim 9 (new): The image processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the weighting means controls weighting of the pixel values of the pixels and juxtaposed pixels when there is no boundary line on left-hand and right-hand sides of the pixel or there is no boundary line on upper and lower sides of the pixel.

Claim 10 (new): The image processing method of claim 7, wherein the weighting step controls weighting of the pixel values of the pixels and juxtaposed pixels when there is no boundary line on left-hand and right-hand sides of the pixel or there is no boundary line on upper and lower sides of the pixel.

Claim 11 (new): The recording medium of claim 8, wherein the weighting step controls weighting of the pixel values of the pixels and juxtaposed pixels when there is no boundary line on left-hand and right-hand sides of the pixel or there is no boundary line on upper and lower sides of the pixel.